THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Department of Tourism has a scheme for recognition of Tourism Transport Operators to encourage standard quality services so as to promote tourism. However, it does not regulate the rates/tariffs that are charged by the Tourist Transport Operators as they are free to charge rates and tariffs as per market conditions.

(b) and (c) The requirement of diesel of rural farmers is being fully met by the public sector oil marketing companies and supply of diesel to motor cars does not in any affect its availability to the rural farmes. The retail selling price of diesel is different at different places due to difference in sales tax, other local levies and the cost of positioning the product from the refinery. However, at a given place the retail selling price would be the same whether the consumer is a luxury car operator or an agriculturist. At present, there is no proposal to put additional cess or excise duty on diesel purchased by the owners of the luxury cars for the purposes of tourism.

World heritage status to Buddha Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh

†1588. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to declare the Buddha Monastery at Twang City in Arunachal Pradesh as a World heritage site is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Government of India does not declare any monument or site as a World Heritage Site. Proposals for nomination are prepared and sent to the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO for its consideration. The nominations are made from out of a tentative list approved by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. At present, there is no proposal for sending nomination of Buddha Monastery at Twang City in Arunachal Pradesh to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.